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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,180	10/16/2001	Pei K. Chang	2105.2135	7984

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EXAMINER

PRATT, HELEN F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1761

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/982,180

Applicant(s)

CHANG ET AL.

Examiner

Helen F. Pratt

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 102 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-102 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is a non-final action since the claims addressed in the last office action were the claims of a related case.

Claim Objections

In claim 79, line 2, the phrase "to the second solution", should probably be "in the second solution".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 83 and 85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 83 is indefinite in the step of adding an additional ingredient after step d. The additional ingredients should be added after step c as in claim 73.

Claim 85 is indefinite in the use of the phrase "method of claim 72". Claim 72 is a composition claim. Applicants probably mean claim 73.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6,13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gandhi.

Gandhi discloses as in claims 1 and 2, a method of making a beverage which can be artificially sweetened, and is supplemented with calcium and that can be a concentrate made by combining calcium carbonate with lactic acid and water, citric acid is added, and then the flavor, and sweeteners, aspartame and acesulpham K. This mixture is seen to be a stabilized concentrate because water is then added to dilute the mixture (col. 8, lines 30-54).

The use of calcium carbonate is disclosed in col. 8, lines 30-54 and other calcium containing ingredients as in claim 2, and acid containing ingredients as in claim 3 and sweeteners such as aspartame and acesulpham K as in claims 4-6 (col. 5, lines 5-14).

A beverage concentrate as in claim 13 has been disclosed above and a full strength beverage as in claim 14 is disclosed in col. 8, lines 50-55. As the beverage contains a sweetener, it is seen that it is an effective amount to make a sweetened beverage.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

^{12, 14-37}
Claims 7-~~8~~ are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandhi.

Claim 7 further requires a preservative that is dissolved in the solution before the artificial sweetener is dissolved. Gandhi discloses the use of a preservative such as

sodium benzoate as in claim 8 in a liquid concentrate containing the same ingredients except for the use of sugar instead of an artificial sweetener (sweetener). However, no patentable distinction is seen at this time in using a preservative with a sweetener or with sugar, as the preservative still performs its known function. Therefore, it would have been obvious to use the preservative of Gandhi in systems that contain artificial sweeteners.

Claims 9 and 10 further require acid-containing flavorings, which can be a cola flavoring, which is added before the sweetener, and claim 11 requires a combination of cola flavor and lemon flavor. Gandhi discloses the use of a cola flavor with calcium and corn syrup (col. 8, lines 1-29). Claim 9 requires that the acid-containing flavoring be dissolved before the addition of the sweetener. Citric acid can be considered a flavoring and is added before the addition of the sweeteners (col. 8, lines 48-54). Gandhi discloses other flavors. Nothing new or unobvious is seen in the addition of lemon flavoring, which is a well-known flavorant as in claims 11 and 12. Therefore, it would have been obvious to add acid ingredients before sweeteners as disclosed by Gandhi.

Claims 13 and 14 are also product by process claims. The fact that the procedures of the reference are different than that of applicant is not a sufficient reason for allowing the product-by-process claims since the patentability of such claims is based upon the product formed and not the method by which it was produced. See *In re Thorpe* 227 USPQ 964. The burden is upon applicant to submit objective evidence to support their position as to the product-by-process claims. See *Ex parte Jungfer* 18

USPQ 2D 1796. Therefore, it would have been obvious to make a beverage concentrate as claimed because the composition has been shown above.

Claims 15 and 16 further require 5 parts water and the use of carbonated water respectively. However, the particular amount of water is seen as being within the skill of the ordinary worker and Gandhi discloses the use of carbonated gas, which would make a product that is carbonated including the water (col. 8, lines 40-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to carbonate a product as disclosed by Gandhi, and it is known to dilute products with various amounts of water.

Claim 17 further requires making a dispersion of calcium salts and water, adding acids and then the artificial sweetener (col. 6, lines 20-40). Gandhi discloses adding calcium carbonate to water (col. 6, lines 20-24) and discloses adding aspartame to a solution containing calcium carbonate and lactic acid. Therefore, it would have been obvious to add calcium to water to make a solution and to add it to acid as disclosed by Gandhi.

The further limitations of claims 18-24 have been discussed above and are obvious for those reasons. Therefore, it would have been obvious to add a sweetener to a mixture made as in step 17 a and b.

Claims 25-27 further require adding acid containing flavoring to the second solution, which contains an acid. However, as above, it is known to add acid containing flavoring solution such as citric acid to a mixture of calcium and acids, which would have contained the same ingredients (col. 8, lines 30-44). No patentable distinction is seen in adding more acid type flavoring such as cola, and an innocuous flavoring such

as lemon to an acid containing mixture. Therefore, it would have been obvious to add more acid containing flavors to a mixture containing an acid flavorant such as citric acid for their known flavoring functions. The limitations of claims 28-34 have been disclosed above and are obvious for those reasons.

Gandhi discloses the use of preservatives and gums as in claim 35 (col. 8, lines 30-55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to use further edible ingredients in the claimed composition.

Claims 36 and 37 further require fruit and tea flavor, respectively. Gandhi discloses the use of orange flavor (col. 9, lines 45-50). Nothing new is seen in the use of tea as a flavor as flavors are disclosed broadly by Gandhi, and no new and unexpected results are seen to have been shown by the use of a tea flavor. Therefore, it would have been obvious to use known flavors in the claimed composition.

Claims 38 – 102 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the above references as applied to claims 1-37 above, and further in view of Braun et al. (4,830,862) and Burkes et al. (5,401,524).

Claim 38 further requires the use of calcium chloride and two other salts and claims 39-42 require particular combinations of salts which additionally. Gandhi discloses that other mineral salts can be used as well as hydroxides and carbonates (col. 5, lines 5-10). Braun et al. disclose that it is known to use calcium chloride, and the other calcium products in a beverage (col. 5, lines 5-15, col. 7, lines 20-35, col. 11, lines 1-10). Nothing new or unobvious is seen in the use of the particular claimed calcium compounds absent a showing of unexpected results in using those compounds.

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Also, Burkes et al. disclose the use of calcium chloride with the other claimed calcium sources (col. 5, lines 25-40, col. 9, lines 33-45). The further limitations of claims 42-59 have been disclosed above. Therefore, it would have been obvious to use various calcium salts in a beverage for their known functions, particularly as the functions such as addition of sourness are known (col. 6, lines 26-51).

Claim 60 is to preparing a full strength beverage. Gandhi discloses a full strength beverage (col. 6, lines 1-40). The further limitations of claim 60 have been discussed above as have been the limitations of claims 61-72 and are obvious for those reasons.

Gandhi discloses the process of claims 73 and 74 (col. 6, lines 1-40 and col. 8, lines 30-55). Citric acid as in claim 75 is disclosed as in col. 6 above, and aspartame as in claim 76 in col. 8, as above. Adding preservatives to the second solution as in claim 77 is disclosed in col. 6, lines 29-32. The calcium salts and edible acids are fully dissolved in the second solution because the solution is clear (col. 6, lines 20-25). Sodium benzoate is disclosed as in claim 78. Citric acid is considered to be an acid containing flavoring solution, which is added to the solubilized calcium-acid solution as in claim 79 (col. 6, lines 56-64). Column 6 discloses the use of a composition containing sucrose instead of a sweetener as in the above claims. Col. 8 discloses the use of aspartame, which is added after the calcium and acid mixtures have been combined. Gandhi discloses a full strength beverage produced by the method of claim 73 (col. 6, lines 1-40 and col. 8, lines 30-55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to add a sweetener in the process as disclosed in col. 6, lines 1-40, instead of a sugar.

The limitations of claims 79-82 have been discussed above and are obvious for those reasons.

Claim 83 requires adding an additional ingredient after step d, which probably should be step c. Gandhi discloses adding a coloring agent (claim 84) after the sweetener has been added (col. 6, lines 20-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to add coloring agents after step C.

The limitations of claims 86-102 have been discussed above and are obvious for those reasons.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helen F. Pratt whose telephone number is 571-272-1404. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Milton Cano, can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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HP 5-17-04


HELEN PRATT
PRIMARY EXAMINER